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homemakers' chat

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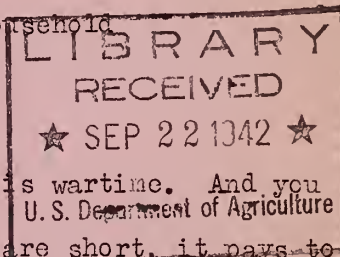
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1942

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In 3 Hh
SUBJECT: "MORE SAVING WAYS." Information from chemists and household

management experts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Every day is a saving day to wise housewives, especially in wartime. And you don't have to be very wise to figure that when civilian goods are short, it pays to save what you have. Every day as you go about your housework, you have a chance to save the things you own--to care for articles that are now scarce, or expensive, or hard to buy. You have a chance every day to make your possessions last, and wear, and give you long service.

Here's another Monday--another opportunity to start a week with savings in mind. Let's go in the bedroom first and have a look at some things there often neglected instead of protected.

The mattress you slept on last night. Does it get good care? Do you clean and air, and look after it properly so that it will give you comfortable sleep through the years? A good mattress can last a lifetime or more--provide sweet sleep and good rest not only for you but for your children--if you take care of it. Care means protecting the mattress in use with a cover or pad. Care means propping the mattress up over the end of the bed or back of a chair for a few hours every week so that air can reach both sides. Care means turning the mattress once a week. One week turn it end-for-end; the next week turn it side-to-side. This will give it even wear--prevent it from getting lumpy or broken down in the middle. And every so often a mattress needs thorough brushing on both sides with a whisk broom, or cleaning with a vacuum cleaner attachment. And don't sit on the side of the bed at any time if you want the sides of the mattress to hold up.

Now about the mirror hanging on the bedroom wall. Do you clean it properly so that it will continue to give a fine clear reflection down through the years? Wash the glass with water containing a little vinegar or ammonia. Rinse dry with a smooth soft cloth that won't leave bits of lint on the glass. Take care not to use too much water so that it will run down between the frame and the glass, and wet the back of the mirror. For when the back gets wet, that's the beginning of the end for the mirror. If the mirror has a wood frame, wipe it with a soft cloth wrung out of mild soap and water, then rinse with a cloth wrung out of clear water; and dry with a soft clean cloth. Never get the frame really wet.

The comb and brush on your dressing table. They need the right care, too, if they're going to last. Some of the better brushes are among the war-short materials these days. The best way to clean a brush or comb is to start with a bowl of soapy water containing a drop or two of ammonia. Remove all hair from the brush and comb. Dip the brush up and down in the bowl of soapy water. Let the comb soak a few minutes and then brush out the soil between the teeth of the comb. Rinse thoroughly in clear water. Shake the brush, then stand it to dry with the bristles down, so water won't soak in the back and loosen the bristles. As for the comb, if it's made of celluloid or a similar materials, be sure not to set it in a hot place to dry. Heat from a radiator or stove may be enough to melt it or even set it on fire.

Those shoes of yours in the closet. Are they knocking around, and getting out of shape, dusty, dry and cracked? Leather experts of the Department of Agriculture urge you especially to take care of your shoes in wartime. Leather is one of the materials that is scarce for civilian use. The better the care you give your shoes, the longer they'll last, and the kinder they'll be to your feet and your pocketbook. Leather experts estimate that good care of wisely bought shoes will cut a family's shoe expense as much as a half--or at the very least a fourth. And the fewer shoes

you need to buy, the better for the country's leather supplies and needs these days.

The leather experts say: "~~Have~~ repairs on shoes made as soon as the shoes show wear. Keep shoes in shape with shoe trees or paper stuffing. Shoes for outdoor work need greasing; those for street wear need polishing only, except that sometimes the soles need greasing. Wet shoes need to dry slowly, never too close to the fire. Polishing shoes is not all for looks. Polish resists moisture and makes shoes more flexible and less likely to dry and crack."

What about the walls and woodwork in your bedroom? Help keep them clean by removing spots when they appear, by frequent dusting. Brush the wall or woodwork upward, starting from the bottom. (Of course, you knew that all the time. But the little bride next door. She always makes the mistake of brushing down, and leaving streaks and spots.) When you have to wash painted woodwork, wash with suds of mild pure soap, and rinse with clear water. Use a sponge if you have one. A sponge can do such a good job of bathing woodwork! But be sure the sponge is only moist, not wet, so the suds won't drip. And wash as you dust--from the bottom up. Give the ceiling attention last.

Just a few little hints for saving in the bedroom, and that's only a start on saving tricks. It just shows you that no matter what little household job you're doing these days--dusting, cleaning, making beds, polishing shoes, or cleaning the mirror, you have a chance to save for yourself--and very often for your country, too.

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